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December 14, 2018

Dear Members of the Fairfield Schools Community,

As many of you have probably heard by now from media reports, I have been selected to become the next superintendent at Elkhart Community Schools beginning January 1. At last night's board meeting, the Fairfield Schools board of trustees accepted my resignation effective the end of December.

It has been my honor to serve as the superintendent of a district so supported by its community. The level of parent, patron, and business engagement for a district of this size is phenomenal. I have appreciated the board's willingness to look at innovative programming, and I have valued the conversations I have had with staff, students, and parents about best meeting student needs. The dedicated staff and collaborative leadership of the district is greater than any one person, and Fairfield Schools is well poised in terms of leadership, programming, and finances to attract a strong new leader.

Moving forward, the Fairfield Schools board of trustees has offered a contract to Dr. Bruce Stahly and plans to hire him at a special board meeting January 2 as interim superintendent to supervise the district over the next several months. During this time, the board will engage hiring consultants to assist with a superintendent search through the spring. A new superintendent will be hired with an anticipated start date of July 1, which is typical for this process.

Thank you Fairfield for welcoming me and my family 11 ½ years ago as assistant superintendent and for entrusting me with district leadership the last six years as your superintendent. Fairfield Schools is a special place and will always hold a spot in my heart for the work we accomplished together on behalf of children. May you all have a blessed holiday season and experience all the best in the new year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Thalheimer